BENGALURU, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror

ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 24 | Min 21 | Humidity 82% Partly Cloudy Sensex 80,426 | Nifty 24,654 | Gold 1,13,300 | Silver 1,39,100 | Dollar 88.69 | Euro 103.68 | GBP 119.35

GET CET GO

Sharp spike in students' disinterest in professional courses as 41,146 CET seats remain unfilled after 3rd round of allocation

PAGE 2

ALL CLEAR

Central pollution watchdog refutes study that had pointed out that many areas in city experiencing ground level ozone pollution

PAGE 4

Ambulance drivers speak of tense moments stuck in traffic as patients' lives hang in balance; road condition too adds to their misery even as most not registered on app introduced by traffic police to clear way for them

NO EMERGENCY EXIT

Of city's around 2,500 ambulances, just 600+ have logged in

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In a city, where even minutes can mean a difference between life and death, ambulance drivers face one of the biggest challenges navigating traffic-clogged roads, vehicle issues, and urgent time pressures. Even with sirens blaring, an ambulance recently took nearly 50 minutes to reach Victoria Hospital in a city where a 10-km commute can take over two hours.

Bengaluru Traffic police have introduced the E-Path app to help ambulances move faster. However, out of Bengaluru's 2,500 ambulances, only 600–614 that is about 24.6%, or roughly one in four, are registered on the app, limiting the system's overall reach and effectiveness.

Ambulance drivers are tasked with balancing two critical responsibilities -- reaching the hospital as quickly as possible while ensuring the safety of patients being transported. "We get stuck in traffic almost every day. Even if people want to give way, there's often nowhere for them to move because the roads are completely jammed," said an ambulance driver.

"Sometimes, even for a short distance of 200 metres, our sirens go unheard amid the constant honking as drivers try to make space. At many junctions, traffic personnel are not present to guide us, and during those times, it becomes extremely difficult to navigate. Every minute counts when a patient's life is at stake, but the combination of heavy traffic, narrow lanes, and unpredictable road conditions turns our job into a constant struggle," the driver added.

> **"Sometimes, even for a short distance of 200 metres, our sirens go unheard amid the constant honking as drivers try to make space. At many junctions, where traffic personnel are not present to guide us, it becomes extremely difficult to navigate** —Ambulance driver

Time pressure adds another layer of stress for ambulance drivers. Every second counts, and delays can have severe

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 >>

On the fringe

At 15.3%, city's slum population ratio relatively lower that other metros of country, shows study

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Out of all major high-density cities in India, Bengaluru has been found to have the best slum growth ratio despite rapid urbanisation.

A slum population density study shows that across six Indian metropolises – Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad – while Mumbai has the highest slum population proportion of 41.6%, Bengaluru, despite high rates of urbanisation, has a relatively low figure of slum ratio with 15.3%.

The slum population of Bengaluru was estimated to be 1.3 million. According to the findings, Mumbai houses the largest number of slums (5.2 million) and slum ratio (41.6%), followed by Kolkata with the slum ratio of 33.3%, Delhi grabbing the third spot with 28.2%, Chennai in fourth position with a slum ratio of 24.5%, followed by Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

The choice of these cities was done through their demographic importance, great levels of urbanisation, and accepted patterns of expansion of informal settlements. The aim was to understand the combination of population density, literacy, basic infrastructure, and slum

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 >>

Return from Gokarna cave: Russian woman, kids allowed to exit India

Court allows Centre to issue exit permits to family found living in forest cave; return can't 'be termed deportation

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THINGS TO DO

01 Sacred steps

Rasika presents 'Sampreeti – Dance of Delight', a Bharatanatyam recital by Priya Selvarathinavel, disciple of Natyacharyas Sri Kiran Subramanyam and Smt Sandhya Kiran. The programme brings a joyous blend of rhythm, expression, and devotion. **Where: Telugu Vignana Samithi, Vyalikaval; When: September 27, 6 pm**

02 Musical tribute

'Dhrupad Utsav', an annual festival in the city, now in its ninth edition, celebrates, preserves, and promotes the 5000 year old Dhrupad tradition of Indian classical music. This edition is a tribute to the Gurus: Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar, Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar, and Pandit Ramakant Gundecha. **Where: Alliance Francaise de Bangalore (September 26, 28) and The Bangalore Room (September 27), 6 pm onwards**

03 By the book

Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru is all set to transport visitors into a boundless universe of stories, ideas, and creativity, where imagination breathes through every page, conversation, and corner through their 'The Big Bangalore Book Fest'. **Where: Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru, Thanisandra Main Road; When: September 11 to 28**

04 Pitch perfect

Led by acclaimed guitarist, composer, and educator Ravi Iyer, The Ravi Iyer Fusion Quartet will be performing, bringing together the depth of Hindustani and Carnatic classical traditions with the energy of rock and the improvisational flair of jazz. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: Sept 26 and 27, 7 pm**

05 Timeless tales

Punyah Dance Company explores timeless ideas through contemporary reflections in 'Maya', a retelling of Mahabharata. **Where: Dwani Auditorium, CMRIT Campus; When: September 27, 6.30 pm**

27% of CET seats are vacant in 2025

Student demand lags behind rising intake capacity; hesitation grows toward institutions with poor infrastructure or high fees, deepening enrolment challenges

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The latest Common Entrance Test (CET) seat allocation figures for 2025 have raised concerns about the health of professional education in Karnataka. Even after the 3rd round of seat allotment conducted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), 41,146 seats remain unfilled, up from 26,072 seats in 2024. While the absolute number of vacant seats has increased, a deeper look at the numbers reveals that the percentage of unfilled seats relative to total availability has actually declined slightly, suggesting that rising seat availability is a key factor behind the raw increase in vacancies.

In 2024, of the 123,226 seats available across engineering, nursing, and other professional courses, 26,072 seats (21.2 per cent) went vacant. In 2025, the total seats increased to 151,593, of which 41,146 seats (27.1 per cent) remain unfilled. This represents a 6-percentage-point increase in vacancy rate, indicating that student demand is struggling to keep pace with the expanding capacity, particularly in engineering and nursing courses, according to data from KEA.

Alternative shift

While engineering and nursing face rising vacancies, courses in food science, agriculture, veterinary science, and textiles continue to attract students and remain almost fully subscribed. These programmes are gaining popularity due to their strong employability prospects, manageable fees, and sufficient infrastructure, reflecting a noticeable shift in student preference toward practical and career-oriented courses beyond the traditional engineering path.

Key takeaways

- Absolute vacancies rose from 26,072 in 2024 to 41,146 in 2025, a 58% increase in unfilled seats
- Vacancy rate relative to total seats: 21.2% in 2024 to 27.1% in 2025 (6 percentage points higher)
- Engineering seats with zero applicants: 14,990
- Rising seat capacity (151,593 in 2025 vs 123,226 in 2024) is the main driver behind the increase in vacant seats

Engineering and nursing bear the brunt

A KEA official said that of the 41,146 unfilled seats in 2025, 14,990 are in engineering (13.4 per cent of VTU seats) and 19,832 in nursing, highlighting a noticeable drop in student interest in core professional courses. "Several private colleges expanded their intakes, adding to the pool of available seats, yet students are hesitant to enrol in institutions lacking adequate infrastructure or charging higher fees. Notably, 14,990 engineering seats received no applications, signalling that certain colleges may be unviable for student admission due to infrastructure constraints," said the official.

VTU oversees 250 engineering colleges, along with 25 private universities, accounting for 84,206 seats under its jurisdiction. Of these, 69,216 were filled, leaving 14,990 vacant. Experts say the increasing seat intake has outpaced actual demand, reflecting both an oversupply in some institutions and a shift in student preference toward alternative career paths or courses with better employability prospects.

Police to conduct special patrols twice a week

In a bid to curb unlawful activities across the city, Bengaluru Police will now carry out special patrols twice a week, City Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh announced on Friday at a women's awareness programme held in Malleshwaram.

Speaking to reporters at the Rani Chennamma Force – Women Awareness Programme, North Division police highlighted their ongoing efforts to maintain public safety. During routine checks, officers have already seized narcotics and identified over a thousand two-wheelers without proper documentation.

The initiative aims to strengthen police presence and ensure a safer environment for citizens. "All police stations will actively participate in these operations to rein in criminal activities," the Commissioner said.

Initiative aims to ensure safety of citizens

Under the memo issued by the Commissioner's office, every Tuesday and Thursday, police will conduct area domination operations within the jurisdiction of individual stations between 9 pm and 11 pm, ensuring respectful conduct toward women and children during checks. Similarly, every Friday and Saturday, foot patrols will focus on crowded and sensitive areas. The Commissioner also directed that inspectors, ACPs, and DCPs be actively involved and provide regular updates to the control room. The memo also includes guidelines to the police which they are expected to strictly follow. Body-worn cameras, video recording, and reflective gear must be used, and pre-briefings with team assignments and equipment checks are mandatory. **— BMB**

BESCOM issues clarification after billing fiasco

Many Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) consumers were left stunned after receiving inflated electricity bills when meter readers, instead of completing their usual 30-day cycle, delayed readings to 35–40 days in August. This happened because meter readers were engaged in house-to-house visits for the state's ongoing socio-economic and caste census, where they were tasked with affixing 'UHID' stickers to identified households. The delay meant that monthly consumption exceeded 200 units in several cases, pushing otherwise eligible Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries out of the free-power bracket and forcing them to pay the entire bill amount. Residents reported that though the bill reflected a 30-day cycle, the actual meter reading spanned a longer duration, inflating usage and charges.

BESCOM's clarification

BESCOM has clarified that the socio-economic and educational survey will not affect the Gruha Jyothi scheme or regular billing in the long run. Officials explained that in September, meter readers had dual responsibilities—conducting household data collection for the survey and using probe-based meter reading for the first time—leading to a short extension of the billing period. Some consumers may have received higher or partial bills, but BESCOM assured that all such bills will be recalculated based on average monthly consumption and corrected copies will be issued to ensure no consumer loses their Gruha Jyothi benefits. **— BMB**

No Occupancy Certificate needed for buildings above 1,200 sq ft in B'luru

The Karnataka Cabinet has decided to exempt buildings constructed on plots larger than 1,200 sq ft within Bengaluru limits from obtaining an Occupancy Certificate (OC). The move comes after the Supreme Court had earlier made OC mandatory for power connections, leaving over 3.3 lakh completed buildings across the state without electricity as they lacked approved plans and OCs. With lakhs of applications pending in Bengaluru alone, the Cabinet has now resolved to provide one-time relief by framing a special law, enabling such buildings to get electricity connections.

However, the Advocate General has clarified that not all large buildings can be exempted; the government has powers to selectively grant relief after verification. Going forward, penalties will be imposed on rule violators, and new legal measures will be introduced in the legislature to prevent such irregularities. This exemption, sources said, follows an earlier Cabinet decision allowing OC waiver for buildings up to 1,200 sq ft, now extended to larger residential units as well. **— BMB**

COVID equipment scam: Delay in SIT formation raises questions

Nearly a year after the Cabinet decided to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) based on the report of the one-man commission led by retired High Court judge John Michael D'Cunha, the order is yet to be implemented, fuelling suspicion of a cover-up. The commission had probed large-scale irregularities in the purchase of medical equipment and medicines worth Rs 7,223 crore during the COVID-19 pandemic, pointing to collusion between senior officials and politicians. It found that Rs 769 crore was siphoned off through inflated pricing, expired drugs, faulty kits, unauthorised purchases, and unaccounted expenses. An activist alleged, "Despite the damning findings, no SIT has been constituted, no recovery of misused funds has begun, and no concrete action has been taken against officials from the health, medical education, and urban development departments named in the report." **— BMB**

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Ozone pollution in city not as widespread, says CPCB

CPCB refutes widespread ozone pollution claims, stressing localised exceedances, year-round monitoring, and contributions from transport, industries, and natural emissions across Bengaluru

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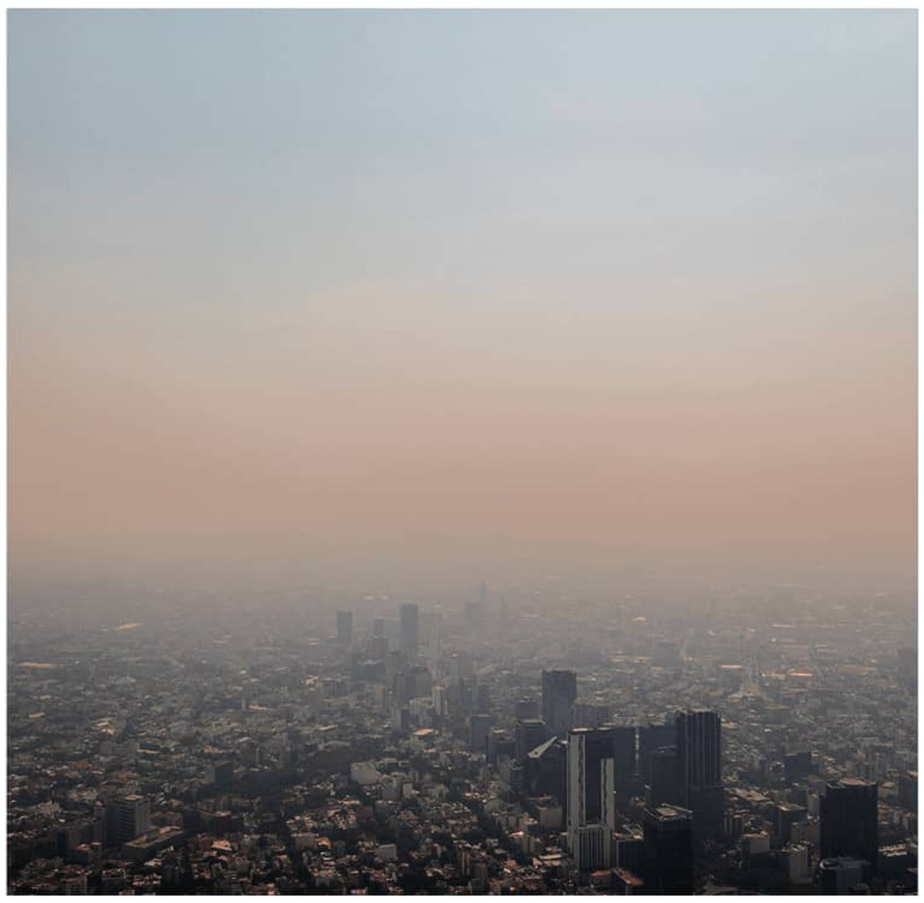

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has refuted findings of a study conducted last year, which suggested that many areas in Bengaluru are experiencing ground-level ozone pollution. CPCB clarified that during the summer of 2024, no monitoring stations in Bengaluru exceeded the prescribed hourly ozone concentration limits. In 2023, only one out of 11 monitoring locations in the city recorded higher ozone levels, according to the National Ambient Air Quality standards.

The central pollution watchdog noted that elevated levels may stem from emissions from the transport sector, power plants, and industrial activities, which collectively contribute to overall NOx emissions. Ozone precursors may also originate from natural sources, including biogenic emissions of volatile organic compounds, soil-based NOx emissions, wildfire-induced carbon monoxide, and methane emissions from the biosphere.

Last year, a report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi, stated that between April 1 and July 18, 2024, ground-level ozone exceeded prescribed limits on 13 days across Bengaluru. The worst day was April 2, when two out of 14 stations recorded elevated ozone levels. CSE's assessment used data from 14 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems (CAAQMS) in Bengaluru and highlighted that ground-level ozone has become a year-round concern.

The report noted that while exceedances are most severe in summer, some locations record high ozone levels throughout the year. Shivapura in Peenya and Kasturi Nagar were identified as the most affected areas. Kasturi Nagar exceeded standards on 49 days last year, while Shivapura Peenya recorded 13 days of high ozone. Other areas, including Jayanagar, Bapuji Nagar, and Silk Board, experienced the fewest exceedances.

According to the central pollution watchdog, the elevated levels may be attributed to emissions from the transport sector, power plants, and industrial activities, which collectively contribute to the overall NOx emission load

CPCB's statement challenges the narrative of widespread chronic ozone pollution in Bengaluru, emphasising that the problem is more localised. It also underscores the need to address both anthropogenic and natural contributors to ozone formation while monitoring air quality continuously across the city.

Metro stretch roads to get immediate repairs

Bengaluru North Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar has directed officials to repair and reopen service roads where metro construction is complete, particularly along the Hebbal–KR Puram stretch. During a midnight-to-early-morning joint inspection from Hebbal flyover to Ramamurthy Nagar junction, he instructed departments to coordinate and complete pending works promptly. Metro authorities were told to restore pile cap sections properly, asphalt service roads after KPCL's underground cable work near Veerannapalya, and ensure smooth surfaces until full blacktopping is done. The commissioner also ordered restoration of damaged stormwater drains, clearance of debris, and installation of new drains to prevent waterlogging near Veerannapalya down ramp and Hennur junction.

Additional directions included filling potholes from Manyata Tech Park to Nagawara flyover, expanding primary drains near Nagawara, maintaining smooth traffic outside Manyata Tech Park, and keeping roads dust-free along the inspected stretches.

Residents relieved as BESCOM ends electricity misuse

Bangalore Mirror report leads BESCOM to disconnect temple lights, restoring electricity stability and earning heartfelt gratitude from Meenakshi Layout residents

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Residents of Meenakshi Layout have expressed their satisfaction with the prompt action taken by the Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) to disconnect electricity supply to decorative lights installed by a temple committee. The lights, powered directly from electric poles, had caused frequent voltage fluctuations, inconveniencing local households.

The issue came to light in a story published by Bangalore Mirror on September 25, titled "A case in point", which detailed how electricity was being misused to power decorative lights along the main road of Meenakshi Layout.

Bangalore Mirror published "A case in point" on September 25, 2025, highlighting Meenakshi Layout residents' power issues from unauthorised decorative lights, prompting BESCOM to act

A BESCOM employee disconnecting electricity to decorative lights at Meenakshi Layout

"I sent an assistant engineer on Wednesday to the layout, but he could not disconnect the electricity to the decorative lights. We completed the disconnection on Thursday
– BESCOM Assistant Executive Engineer

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, a BESCOM Assistant Executive Engineer said that immediate steps were taken to resolve the problem. "I sent an assistant engineer on Wednesday to the layout, but the disconnection could not be completed that day. The electricity supply to the decorative lights was successfully disconnected on Thursday," he said.

Residents welcomed the action and thanked both BESCOM and the newspaper for their intervention. "We are grateful to Bangalore Mirror for highlighting the issue, which caused so much inconvenience to our families," said Lawrence Anthony, Secretary of the Meenakshi Layout Welfare Association.

JC Reddy, President of the welfare association, added, "Thanks to Bangalore Mirror, the problem was addressed quickly, and electricity theft for decorative purposes was prevented. We appreciate BESCOM's prompt response in resolving the matter."

The swift resolution has brought relief to residents, who can now enjoy stable electricity supply without the disruptions caused by unauthorised connections to decorative lights.

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Road danger

Marathahalli

Potholes and poor maintenance on the service road near Marathahalli flyover are causing daily traffic jams and commuter delays.

Pavement peril

Brigade Millennium Road

Broken pavements along Brigade Millennium Road pose serious risks to pedestrians and senior citizens, making daily walking unsafe .

Garbage menace

Wilson Garden

Unchecked dumping on Wilson Garden 12th Cross continues to breed mosquitoes and rats, despite repeated complaints from residents.

CRIME FILES

Woman held for saree theft, shop owner for assault

The KR Market police have arrested three people, including a woman who stole sarees from a shop and the shop owner who later assaulted her when she returned.

The woman, identified as Hampamma from Andhra Pradesh, was earlier caught on CCTV lifting a bundle of more than 50 sarees from Maya Silks and Sarees on Avenue Road on September 21. Taking advantage of the shop being unattended, she fled with the bundle, while her minor son was seen waiting outside.

When Hampamma returned to the area days later, locals alerted the shopkeeper. Umed Kumar and his employee, Mahendra Sirvi, confronted her, and in a fit of rage, Umed allegedly punched her in the chest and assaulted her before handing her over to police.

Police have booked Hampamma for theft and also registered a suo motu case after a video of the assault went viral. **BMB**

Property worth crores damaged in massive fire

A massive fire gutted a furniture store on Pipeline Road in Malleshwaram, in the early hours of Friday, reducing valuables worth crores to ashes.

According to sources, the blaze broke out around 2.30 am, and is suspected to have been triggered by an electrical short circuit. It is alleged that goods worth 5 crore were destroyed, and the flames spread to three houses in an adjoining apartment block.

Nearly 13 fire tenders were pressed into service to bring the situation under control. Around 10 workers were asleep inside the store when the fire broke out, but they were rescued by residents.

Health Minister and local MLA Dinesh Gundu Rao visited the spot and reviewed the situation. He noted that while it was fortunate no one was injured, fire safety continues to be neglected. "Incidents like these keep recurring because establishments fail to take even basic precautions," he said. **BMB**

Woman praises B'luru police for quick response

A woman who lost her phone at Phoenix Marketcity mall on Saturday night had it traced and returned within 10 minutes, thanks to swift action by Mahadevapura police.

The incident took place around 9.40 pm, just before closing hours, at the Fun Zone gaming area, when the woman, identified as Bebina Srichandan, left her phone on the premises and walked away. By the time she realised her phone was missing and rushed back, it had already disappeared.

Repeated calls to her number either went unanswered or showed as busy, confirming that someone had picked it up. Upon being contacted by her friend, the response from Mahadevapura Police Station, Whitefield, was immediate.

Within minutes, police located the phone.

Srichandan shared her experience on social media, saying the episode shattered stereotypes about biases and language barriers. **BMB**

Pro-Kannada activists held for disrupting work

The High Grounds Police arrested 41 pro-Kannada activists after they disrupted a Parliamentary Committee on Official Language meeting at the Taj West End Hotel on Race Course Road. A case was registered at High Grounds Police Station, and the protesters were produced before the 1st ACJM Court, which remanded them to judicial custody.

The incident occurred on the final day of the three-day meeting, at around 10:45–11:00 am, when approximately 30–40 members of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) entered the venue in protest against the promotion of Hindi. The activists, wearing yellow and red scarves, the colors of the Kannada flag, raised anti-Hindi slogans, obstructed the work of government officials, tore event posters, and caused damage to furniture, temporarily halting the proceedings.

However, the situation was brought under control by the police. **BMB**

Pomegranate theft worth Rs 4.5 lakh reported

In an incident of agricultural theft, thieves looted pomegranates worth nearly Rs 4.5 lakh from a farmer's orchard, leaving the cultivator in distress. A complaint has been filed with the Soladevanahalli Police Station.

According to the complaint lodged, the farmer, who resides in the village and is engaged in agriculture, owns a one-acre orchard where he cultivates pomegranates. On September 19, 2025, the farmer worked in his garden until 7 am before returning home. The following morning, on September 20, at around 7 am, he revisited the orchard only to discover that miscreants had struck during the intervening period.

The thieves allegedly harvested fruits from approximately 450 pomegranate trees in the orchard. The stolen produce has been valued at around Rs 4.5 lakh. The farmer approached the local police and lodged a complaint seeking justice. **BMB**

Man duped of Rs 8.8 lakh with fake CBI threats

A 49-year-old scientist has filed a complaint after being cheated of Rs 8.8 lakh by cyber fraudsters who posed as police and CBI officials and threatened him with false criminal charges.

According to police, the incident began on September 16, 2024, when the victim received a call from an unknown number, claiming that the complainant's mobile number was being used on another SIM card. The victim was then connected to multiple other numbers. During these calls, the fraudsters showed him fabricated documents and falsely accused him of involvement in a human trafficking case. They warned that the CBI would arrest him if he failed to cooperate.

Believing the threats, the victim transferred Rs 8,80,000 from his account over two days (September 17–19).

The complainant later realised he had been duped, and approached the police. A case has been registered, and investigations are underway. **BMB**

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Return from Gokarna cave: Russian woman, kids allowed to exit India

Court allows Centre to issue exit permits to family found living in forest cave; return can't 'be termed deportation'

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IN HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court has cleared the way for the Union government to facilitate the return of a Russian woman and her two children, who were discovered living in a cave in the forests of Gokarna, Uttara Kannada district.

Justice B M Shyam Prasad, while disposing of a petition filed by Dror Shlomo Goldstein, permitted the Centre to issue exit permits and necessary travel documents. Goldstein had sought to prevent what he described as the "sudden deportation" of his minor daughters.

Appearing for the Union, Additional Solicitor General Aravind Kamath informed the court that DNA reports of one child had already been shared with Russian authorities. Following this, the Russian government issued Emergency Travel Documents (ETDs), valid from September 25 to October 9, requiring the family to leave India at the earliest.

The court was told that the woman had originally entered India on a Russian passport but had overstayed her visa. Authorities clarified that her return with the children could not be treated as deportation since it was at her own request and in line with the Russian government's decision.

Advocate Beena P K, representing Goldstein, argued that the children's welfare must be paramount under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. She contended that Goldstein had been supporting the family and was responsible for raising the second child.

However, the bench observed that the circumstances in which the woman and her children were found—living in isolation in a forest cave without basic amenities—required urgent intervention. The judge noted that rehabilitation efforts had been initiated soon after authorities discovered them, and that the mother had consistently expressed a strong desire to return to Russia.

"The best interest of the children must be examined in this backdrop," Justice Shyam Prasad said, noting that the Russian government had already responded positively to India's request.

Concluding the matter, the court held that the Union of India could proceed with issuing the necessary documentation for their departure. The petition was accordingly disposed of.

Court backs dyscalculia student at NLSIU

The HC has directed the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, to adopt a liberal approach while evaluating a first-year student with dyscalculia, a specific learning disability that affects numerical comprehension.

Justice R Devdas was hearing a plea filed by the student, who sought exemption or an alternate subject in place of Economics, citing her difficulty in grasping mathematical concepts. Disposing of the petition, the court observed that if the student cleared all subjects except Economics and related courses, such as History of Economic Thought, the university should make suitable accommodations to ensure she is not barred from progressing.

"The writ petition is accordingly disposed of, while directing NLSIU to have due regard to the disability suffered by the petitioner," the order stated, adding that such decisions could be taken by the Vice Chancellor.

The student had earlier sought exemption through the Vice Chancellor and the Academic Review Committee. NLSIU, while acknowledging the disability, argued that the curriculum is governed by Bar Council of India rules and does not permit exemptions. However, it informed the court that alternatives were being offered, including conceptual question papers and optional courses.

Aadhaar use data can aid missing cases

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) can be directed to share Aadhaar usage details, including location of authentication, to help police trace missing persons.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj, while hearing a plea by Krishnamurthy whose son has been missing since 2019, said investigators may approach the High Court under Section 33 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 to obtain such data.

The court clarified that Section 29 bars only disclosure of core biometric data. However, identity details like Aadhaar number, demographic information, and authentication records may be released on judicial orders.

Only the High Court, not lower courts or police, can issue such directions, the bench stressed. It also held that the Aadhaar (Authentication and Offline Verification) Regulations, 2021 cannot override Section 33 powers. UIDAI has been directed to provide Aadhaar-linked location details of the missing son within 15 days, with disclosure restricted strictly for investigation.

48 farmer suicides daily in country amid mounting debt crisis

Y Maheswara Reddy
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AIFBF highlights how arbitrary penalties and high rates drive borrowers to defaults, worsening suicides and stalling India's growth vision

Borrowers group launches helpline, appeals to PM for reforms to empower entrepreneurs and farmers against relentless debt-driven harassment

The All-India Financial Borrowers' Federation (AIFBF) appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to introduce borrower-friendly reforms to prevent farmers and other borrowers from taking hasty decisions due to their inability to repay loans availed from banks and financial institutions. The federation also launched a helpline — 080-45888789 — during an empowerment and awareness programme organised at the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) on Thursday.

AIFBF chairman Dayananda told Bangalore Mirror that nearly 48 farmers die by suicide every day in the country due to debt-traps, and financial institutions have failed to address the crisis.

"I am myself a victim of a public sector bank. I was harassed by employees and lost crores of rupees. I did not want others to suffer the same fate, so I founded AIFBF. We set up our office on KG Road opposite a PSU bank. Any borrower can seek guidance by calling the helpline," he said.

According to him, banks demand collateral much higher than the loan amount, while charging exorbitant interest rates, leaving farmers and entrepreneurs trapped. The federation has submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister seeking comprehensive reforms, including easier access to business-friendly loans for women entrepreneurs and start-ups. "If India aims to achieve the $5 trillion GDP target, large-scale financial reforms are unavoidable. With interest rates among the highest globally at around 16 percent, repayment becomes unviable," Dayananda added.

At the awareness programme, he highlighted how borrowers face harassment for delayed or missed payments. "Financial institutions must approach loans from the borrower's perspective. Fairer practices will increase repayment and reduce non-performing assets. Instead, banks levy heavy interest and penalties, worsening repayment defaults," he said. He also urged policymakers to consider establishing dedicated borrower grievance redressal cells within banks, ensuring timely resolution of disputes and reducing the mental strain on small farmers and entrepreneurs.

Supporting the appeal, FKCCI president MGBalakrishna underlined the critical role of borrowers in powering the economy. He called them nation-builders, job creators, and taxpayers. "Every great enterprise begins with trust and credit, with the belief that borrowed capital can be transformed into productive wealth," he said.

At the same time, Balakrishna noted that borrowers continue to face arbitrary decisions, delays in revising terms, prolonged litigation, harassment, and unequal treatment before the law. Many sincere entrepreneurs, he said, are driven into financial distress through no fault of their own. He commended AIFBF for uniting India's 75 crore borrowers under one platform. "When borrowers know their rights, when they understand the framework of law and finance, and when they stand united, real change is possible," he said.

Ex- Commissioner Bhaskar Rao urged borrower support through AIFBF.

Crackdown finds 12 fake docs in B'luru

Bengaluru Urban district has reported 12 fake doctors as part of the state's ongoing crackdown on unqualified practitioners, highlighting the persistence of quacks despite repeated government efforts. Across Karnataka, a total of 256 fake doctors has been detected since April 2024, with 89 clinics shut, four FIRs filed, and fines imposed on 154 individuals—only 39 of whom have paid. Nine cases remain pending in various courts. While most cases were reported in border districts like Kalaburagi (111), Kolar (31), and Chamarajanagar (22), Bengaluru Urban accounts for 12, showing that the city is not immune to this issue.

The rise of fake dermatologists offering treatments after beauty courses is particularly concerning. These unqualified practitioners are more prevalent in districts with low literacy and limited access to licensed doctors, but Bengaluru residents have also been affected. **-BMB**

Dy CM takes charge of Bengaluru Urban

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's portfolios have been redefined. He now holds charge of Major and Medium Irrigation and Bengaluru Urban Development, replacing his earlier Bengaluru City Development mandate. His revised responsibilities cover Bengaluru Town Planning, the Greater Bengaluru Authority, five city corporations under the GBA, and all Urban Local Bodies within Bengaluru Urban district (excluding service matters). Additionally he will continue overseeing the BDA, BWSSB, BMRDA, and BMRCL, ensuring city's growth, infrastructure, water, and transport development. **-BMB**

Minister mulls forest division shift to Dept

Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre has asked the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to submit a report on whether the Forest Division under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) can be transferred back to the Forest Department. The move comes amid concerns that the current arrangement under GBA is ineffective. Earlier, BBMP had its own forest wing, which was merged into GBA along with five new municipal bodies. However, staff shortages have hampered functioning, and cases are being booked against GBA forest staff in incidents of tree fall deaths, dampening morale. Forest department better placed for bengaluru tree management. **-BMB**

KIADB eyes land for industrial areas

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) is moving ahead with plans to acquire about 1,387 acres of land across 14 villages in Bengaluru Urban district to develop new industrial areas. The land parcels are spread across Anekal taluk—including B. Hosahalli, Muthanallur, Amanikere, Handenahalli, S Medahalli, Adigarakallahalli, Sollepura, Sumanahalli, Beekanahalli, Chikkatimmansandra, Kommasandra—and Bagaluru in Yelahanka taluk. Out of the 2,535 acres identified initially, 642 acres have already been acquired, with the balance set to be notified soon. Officials confirm that pending payment,Beekanahlli land valued. **-BMB**

Slay with sway

Sheer Dupatta Styles That Elevate Even The Simplest Outfit

A lightweight and versatile sheer dupatta is one of the simplest style statement outfits, yet it can elevate your look into something effortless and elegant and appeal to your outfit. But for this, your style of draping the dupatta matters; the way you drape your dupatta is the game changer for the whole look. Discover some dupatta styles that will effortlessly style up your whole outfit effortlessly.

Cape Drape

Cape-style drape is for those who want to elevate their look without much effort; it blends with traditional and western wear, which makes the outfit create a more contemporary and traditional ambience. It will give off grace and elegance to your outfit. Which can be tried out by simply draping your dupatta over your shoulder and letting it flow down freely on your back and sides, the same as wearing a flowing cape, and for extra security, pair it with a brooch or pin on one shoulder. You can style up with a lehenga or fitted kurta. Which is perfect for taking out those ethnic looks in weddings, parties, or for any festival.

One Side Drape

One-side drape is an effortless and chic way of draping a sheer dupatta, which makes a perfect simple yet balanced style that makes you appear graceful and fashion-forward. To go for this look, simply drape the dupatta over one shoulder and let it fall down on one side of the shoulder, keeping the other side open in a circular wrap. It brings a twist to the modern outfit and can be paired with straight-cut kurtas, palazzos, or lehengas. Ideal for casual gatherings and festivities, which adds a relaxed and chic demeanor to the overall look.

Butterfly Drape

This style of dupatta drape gives off a playful and fun look to the way you style your outfit. It creates volume and a light and elegant look to the style. First, pleat the dupatta in the center and place it over your shoulder in such a manner that it mimics the wing of the butterfly, and secure it with pins for a polished look by leaving the dupatta with a flawless and effortless look, which is perfect for festive occasions and casual gatherings. You can style up with palazzos or a kurta, which adds a fun and playful twist to the look.

Belt Drape

The Belt drape is perfect for adding structure and defining the look of your outfit. For this look, simply drape the dupatta over your shoulder or around your torso, then secure it at your waistline with a slim belt. Which really gives a polished and comfortable look through the blend of traditional and modern fashion. This style perfectly goes with kurtas or lehengas; you can opt for a metallic or embellished belt perfect for the occasion, which enhances your figure and makes a chic overall look effortlessly.

Jacket Drape

The jacket drape is perfect for layering the outfit. To achieve this style, drape the dupatta over your shoulder and let it fall evenly on both sides, like a jacket or shrug, and adjust according to your desired style. You can pair it with a belt or pin it at your shoulder for extra security. The sheer fabric adds an airy and elegant touch with structured drape, which exudes a modern and chic aesthetic. This look is perfect for someone who loves to add a twist to the traditional look.

Cowl Drape

The cowl drape is one of the stylish and elegant ways to wear a sheer dupatta, which adds soft and flowing elegance to the outfit. To achieve this look, drape the dupatta loosely around your shoulders or neckline, allowing it to fall in soft rounded folds. Adjust the folds for tightness or looseness, making it flow and soft with a feminine touch. It effortlessly blends with traditional style. **–Femina**

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Farmlands emerge as new urban escape and investment for city

Rising demand for greenery and modern amenities fuels interest in managed farmlands, where buyers enjoy both profitable returns and weekend escapes

As concrete jungles dominate urban landscapes, more city residents are searching for open spaces with fresh air and greenery to spend weekends and holidays. This rising demand has turned farmlands on the outskirts of cities into a sought-after option. They provide a rare chance to unwind in nature while also serving as a promising long-term investment. Many buyers are now cultivating mango, mahogany, and seasonal vegetables, finding both steady income and peace of mind.

Profitable investment

Realtors say farmland projects that allow commercial crops, supported by modern amenities, are being increasingly seen as high-return assets. Experts note that such properties can double in value within a few years, drawing strong interest from Bengaluru, Mysuru, North Karnataka, and overseas buyers.

Luxury amenities like pools and clubhouses redefine farmland as lifestyle destinations

Hassle-free farming

"Many developers manage farmland activities with the help of local farmers, ensuring owners need not be directly involved. This allows busy professionals to pursue their passion for farming while enjoying consistent returns. Children also gain exposure to agriculture and greenery, creating a more balanced lifestyle," said Suresh Gowda, a developer.

Bigger land advantage

Compared to city plots, farmland offers much larger space for nearly the same price—often four times the area of an urban site. With proper infrastructure and premium facilities, buyers see it as both a lifestyle upgrade and a secure investment with reliable five-year returns.

Luxury with nature

"These managed farmlands not only grow mango, sapota, banana, and seasonal produce but also include lifestyle amenities such as swimming pools, clubhouses, indoor games, outdoor courts, senior citizen spaces, and ample parking," said Kritika K, a realtor. "With excellent connectivity to Bengaluru. For urban families, managed farmlands offer a rare blend of greenery, comfort, and profitability—weekends spent in nature alongside the assurance of financial growth.

–Prakash VL

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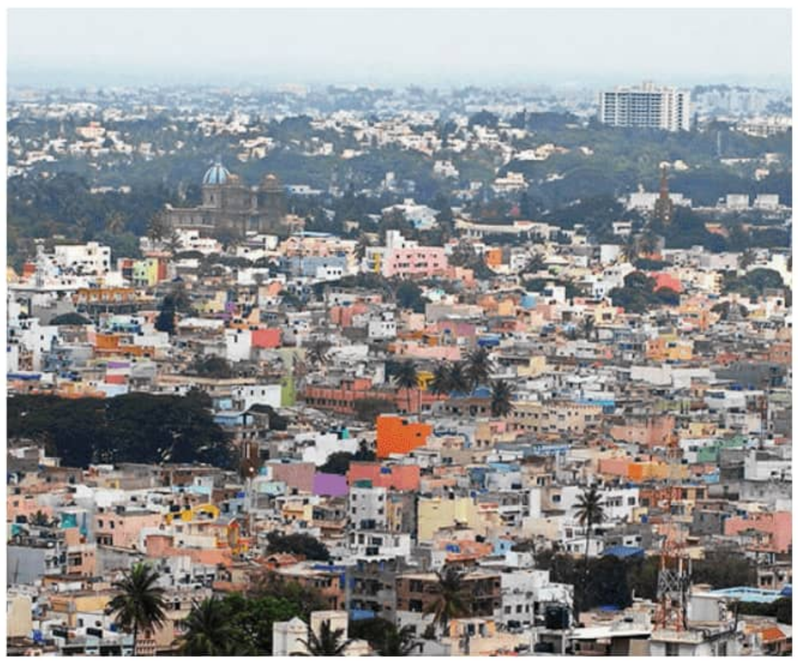
High-value buyers keep real estate momentum alive

India's housing market stayed resilient as luxury homes lifted values, unsold stock remained steady, and Bengaluru continued attracting high-value buyers despite affordability pressures

Despite global uncertainties, India's housing market has shown resilience in Q3 2025, though sales volumes dipped slightly. Data from ANAROCK Research & Advisory reveals that while housing sales across the top seven cities fell 9% year-on-year to 97,080 units, the overall sales value rose 14% — from 1.33 lakh crore in Q3 2024 to 1.52 lakh crore this year. The figures highlight a clear consumer shift toward premium and luxury housing.

Sales overview

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) led with 30,260 units sold, followed by Pune at 16,620. Together, they accounted for nearly half of all Q3 2025 sales. Bengaluru ranked third with 14,835 units — down 1% year-on-year and 2% quarter-on-quarter. Chennai and Kolkata were the only cities to post annual growth, recording 33% and 4% increases, respectively.



Bengaluru's new supply leaned heavily toward premium and luxury housing projects

Bengaluru ranked third with 14,835 units — down 1% year-on-year and 2% quarter-on-quarter. Chennai and Kolkata were the only cities to post annual growth, recording 33% and 4% increases, respectively

Luxury supply surge

New housing supply in the top seven cities touched 96,690 units in Q3 2025, up 3% annually. MMR again topped with 29,565 units launched, followed by Pune with 19,375. Bengaluru contributed 15,190 units, marking a 5% annual dip. Strikingly, 79% of the city's new supply fell in the 80 lakh– 2.5 crore bracket, reflecting developers' growing focus on high-value buyers.

Unsold inventory across the top cities dropped marginally from 5.64 lakh units in Q3 2024 to 5.61 lakh units by Q3 2025-end, showing steady absorption. Prices, however, climbed further. The seven cities registered an average 9% year-on-year rise, with NCR recording the sharpest jump of 24%. Bengaluru clocked a 10% increase, pushing average residential values higher even as affordability pressures grew.

For Bengaluru, the picture is mixed. Sales volumes dipped, but demand for premium and luxury housing helped cushion developers. Experts say steady IT incomes, urban aspirations, and investor confidence continue to drive growth. However, affordability concerns persist, and the market's tilt toward high-end housing may increasingly sideline first-time and mid-income buyers.

–BMB

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CREDAI BENGALURU

After complaint, Lokayukta probes irregularities at cancer hospital

The Lokayukta conducted a surprise raid which led to a suo motu case into alleged irregularities and malpractices at Kidwai Memorial Cancer Hospital, following an anonymous complaint. Lokayukta, Justice NV Patil, constituted a special team of judicial and police officers to inspect the hospital and seize documents, fearing evidence could be tampered with.

During the inspection, several lapses came to light. The government-appointed administrator, an IANO officer holding additional charge, was found to be visiting the hospital only once a week. Shortage of doctors and support staff was also observed, raising concerns over the hospital's ability to handle the growing patient load.

The inspection revealed discrepancies in the hospital pharmacy. While medicines are heavily subsidised, patients paying ₹600 for drugs worth ₹6,600 several prescribed medicines, including Enzavutamide 160 mg and Exylete, were unavailable. Staff were reportedly directing patients to private medical stores instead. **BMB**

SC notice to Sanjjanaa Galrani

The Supreme Court on Friday issued a notice to actor Archana Galrani, also known as Sanjjanaa Galrani, on a plea filed by the Karnataka government challenging the quashing of proceedings against her.

The case concerns allegations that she procured and distributed drugs, including cocaine, ecstasy, and marijuana, at luxury parties across the country. The bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi directed Galrani to respond to the special leave petition, which contests the March 25, 2024 judgment of the Karnataka High Court.

The High Court had earlier quashed the 2020 case registered against Galrani and others for offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, read with Section 120B of the Indian Penal Code. The proceedings were pending before the Special Judge, NDPS, Bangalore City.

The court had cited Section 219 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which limits trials to three offences of the same kind within a 12-month period, holding that a separate FIR must be registered for each offence committed on different dates, even if committed pursuant to a conspiracy. The Karnataka government, represented by Additional Advocate General Aman Panwar, argued that the High Court's interpretation was flawed, stating that the offences in question were of a continuing nature and Section 219 CrPC does not apply to such cases.

The Supreme Court's consideration of this matter is expected to have broader implications on how continuing offences under the NDPS Act are prosecuted and on the application of Section 219 CrPC in cases involving multiple acts of the same nature. **BMB**

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17 Days Exhibition Entry Free
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City has 1.3 million slum dwellers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

concentration with the help of harmonized urban indicators and spatial data overlays. Researchers noted that a relatively low slum ratio, despite vigorous population growth, is a combination of various factors, including an overall increased literacy level and better sanitation systems.

Those cities, which comparatively were more literate (Chennai, 90.2%) and had better access to sanitation (Bengaluru, 72%), had a lower slum ratio as well.

Bengaluru and Hyderabad, despite their vigorous population growth, demonstrate a relatively low slum ratio either as a sign of more recent slum development or the alternative model of governing informal housing.

The study was conducted by researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Kharagpur, MBM University in Jodhpur, National Institute of Technology in Allahabad, AJK College of Arts and Science, Yeshwantrao Chavan College of Engineering, Nagpur, Banasthali Vidyapith, and SRM University, Sonipat. The research was published in the Journal of Applied Bioanalysis.

App to be fine tuned to make things smoother

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

consequences for patients requiring urgent care, such as those suffering from heart attacks, accidents, or critical illnesses. The challenge is not limited to reaching the hospital; drivers must also manage patient stability en route. "It's not just about speed," said the driver. "We need to monitor the patient, as the healthcare workers assist first aid as immediate care, we also must ensure that they remain stable while we navigate the city, but potholes, and narrow roads are added challenges, " said another driver.

Although the Bengaluru police have proposed a technology-enabled solution called E-Path to facilitate traffic clearances for ambulances, DCP South (traffic) Gopal M Byakod, explains the challenges in this.

"Many ambulance drivers don't use it. The E-Path app tracks ambulances and ensures they can move freely without getting stuck in traffic for extended periods. This app initiates a collaborative approach between Traffic Police, hospitals and ambulance aggregators. Registered users include the 108 emergency medical response service. While Bengaluru has around 2,500 ambulances, only 600 to 614 are registered on the app," Byakod said.

A traffic police official explained the timeline. "When an ambulance is dispatched, the control room receives a notification to track its location on the map. Currently, a constable is informed manually, but future updates will allow constables to receive notifications directly through the app, eliminating the need for a manual call. The app will also be integrated with traffic signal controllers, enabling signals to automatically turn green without human intervention, ensuring faster and smoother movement for ambulances."

This approach has led to notable improvements in emergency response. Real-time tracking allows the nearest available ambulance to be dispatched quickly, while advanced routing algorithms guide vehicles along the most efficient paths, reducing travel time. The system also enhances support from traffic police: It can detect when an ambulance is stuck at signals or congested areas, enabling field officials to intervene and ensure smoother movement. Additionally, an SOS feature allows ambulance drivers to contact traffic police directly for immediate on-field assistance, giving urgent cases top priority.

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sameena Bano D/o Fidha Hussain #9 Modi Road D J Halli Blr-45 have changed my name to Sameena for all purposes.

I, Syed Idris Rafeeq, R/O Basavanagudi, Bangalore, have changed son's name from Yassar Idris Rafeeq to Taha Idris Rafeeq

I, Vincent Ferin Arokiraj s/o Rajkanth Vincent Paul Selvaraj R/o No.13, 13th cross, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru 560002 have changed my name to Vincent Ferin Arockiaraj. Affidavit Dt.26/09/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, AMEYA KAMAT / AMEYA NARAYAN KAMAT, S/O Late Mr.NARAYAN KAMAT, Aged about 48 years, Residing at A-409, Knightsbridge Apartments ITPL Main Road, Brookfield, Kundalahalli, Bengaluru-560037, Have changed my name to AMEYA KAMAT, For all purposes.

I, ASHMITAA residing at No.187, 13th Cross, KPSC Layout, Phase 1, Jayasurya Nagar, Bengaluru – 560064. I have changed my name to J ASHMITAA. Vide affidavit dated 25/09/2025 sworn before notary. T V Bhadravijaya

I Arumugam Visalakshy Gopinathan D/O, Pulamadan Arumugam R/o B112 Dsr White Waters Ph1, Carmelaram Rd, Off Sarjapura, Gunjur, Bangalore-560035 have changed my name to Visalakshy Gopinathan Parvathiamma.

I Suma H S W/o Kumaraswamy R R/o No 78, Gowru Nilaya, 3rd Cross,Thotadaguddadahalli, BGS Layout, Nagasandra Post, B'luru 560073 have changed my name to SUMA K for all purposes.

I, Syeda Summaiya Ashraf, R/at No.11, Flat No.G1, Ground Floor, Kools Diamond Hill Apartment 2nd Main Road, B.M.K Layout, R T Nagar, Bangalore-560032, Have Changed My Name to Syeda Summaiya, For All Purposes.

I Pushpanjali W/o: Vijay Garagad, Flat No: D-107, Bren Northernlights, Survey No 8, Garg Street 560064 have changed my name to Pushpanjali Roogi.

I, AMEYA KAMAT, residing at A-409, Knightsbridge Apartments ITPL Main Road, Brookfield, Kundalahalli, Bengaluru-560037, Have changed my Elder Son's Name from SANCHIT AMEYA KAMAT to SANCHIT KAMAT.

I Marie Josephine King W/O, Keith King R/o No 27/1, Nandi Hills Road, Mount View Resort, Karahalli Cross, Karahalli, Bengaluru Rural - 562110 have changed my name to Marie King.

I Lalith Kumar Dak S/O, Ghalilal Jain Goolchand R/o No 220 2nd Main 2nd Cross Keb Layout Aswatnagar Sanjaynagar Bengaluru - 560094 have changed my name to Lalit Kumar Dak.

I Sangeetha Dak W/O, Lalit Kumar Dak R/o No 220 2nd Main 2nd Cross Keb Layout Aswatnagar Sanjaynagar Bengaluru - 560094 have changed my name to Sangeetha

I, DHRUV NILESHBHAI DHAMELIYA residing at Christ hall, Boys Hostel, Nelagadaranahalli main road, Christ University, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru - 560073. I have changed my name to DHRUV NILESHKUMAR DHAMELIYA. Vide affidavit dated 25/09/2025 sworn before notary. T V Bhadravijaya Bengaluru

I, Nikhil Narayana Bhat, son of Sri.Narayan Bhat, aged about 19 years, residing at No.1413, Ground Floor, 12th 'B' Cross, 6th Main, West of Chord Road, 2nd Stage, Mahalakshmipuram, Bengaluru-560066 have changed my name to Nikhil Bhat for all purposes.

I, Sreenidhi Hassan, s/o Srinivas Hassan Narasimha Iyengar, aged 43 years, r/o 21273, Prestige Jindal City, Chikkabidarakallu, Bengaluru-560073, do hereby declare that both the names Sreenidhi Hassan and Sreenidhi Hassan Srinivas are one and the same and refers to myself. Henceforth I shall be known and called as Sreenidhi Hassan for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 2-9-2025, sworn before Advocate & Notary, B. Hanumantharaya, at Bengaluru.

I Gururaj R/o No 21,SF-01,7th Cross Rd,Bharath Nagar,2nd Phase, Bharat Nagar, Bengaluru-9, Have changed my name to Gururaj k Desai for all the purpose

LOST & FOUND

LOST DOCUMENT

It is notified for information for public at large that original Sale Deed document nos Site No. 72, CKB-1-05782-2017-18 Date- 22-03-2018, Site No.68 CKB-1-05788-2017-18 Date- 22-03-2018 & Site No.63, CKB-1-05784-2017-18 Date- 22-03-2018, all of THE CALIFONIA COUNTY Gangarakaluve Village, Kasaba hobli Chikkaballapura Taluk has been lost or misplaced. FIR no. 1738190-2025 Date-05-08-2025 has been registered online. Finder please contact the owner Amol Rangdal Tel.: 9448094889

I, PUTTAMMA, R/o No.59, Kodiyala Karenahalli, Ramagagara - 562109, have lost Original Sale Deed Document Identification No: KEN-1-16053-2006-07 on 27.08.2025 in Ramanagara. I have given police complaint in this regard with Reference No. 1821726 /2025 on 25.09.2025. If anybody finds this Document, Please contact me on 95355 59712

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

SAHYADRI RED BEAUTY

Our reader shares a striking image of a Western Ghats butterfly, spotted in a Coorg resort. Once a hairy larva and later a plain brown pupa, it transforms into a dazzling spectacle of psychedelic hues—briefly enchanting all who witness its fragile beauty.

The picture was clicked by reader **S Sampath Kumari**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Citizen turns garbage black spot into thriving mini-garden space

Bengalureans devise unusual tactics to fight garbage menace

With recurring waste dumping showing no signs of abating, residents across Bengaluru are devising unusual and sometimes extreme measures to protect their streets. In several neighbourhoods, citizens have taken to patrolling lanes with sticks, chasing away those who attempt to dump trash illegally. Others rely on faith, placing pictures of deities on compound walls to deter littering, believing religious sentiment works better than stern warning boards. "The photo of a god works better than a warning sign," says a Rajajinagar resident. In BTM Layout, one family even shifted homes after fencing, CCTV and repeated complaints failed to stop garbage piling up. While these responses reflect civic fatigue with official apathy, they also underline a collective spirit—ordinary people determined to reclaim their neighbourhoods from turning into garbage zones.

Fed up with years of garbage being dumped carelessly near his home, 63-year-old businessman KG Prasad decided he could no longer wait for officials or neighbours to act. Repeated appeals to residents and pourakarmikas yielded no change, leaving the spot a persistent eyesore. Out of sheer frustration, Prasad tried an unusual yet practical solution—he converted the dumping area into a mini-garden.

On Independence Day, he placed large cement pots filled with soil and saplings at the black spot notorious for littering. To his surprise, the effect was immediate. "People stopped throwing garbage there. Even stray dogs, which thrived on the waste, have reduced," Prasad said. What months of persuasion could not achieve, a touch of greenery managed effortlessly. Initially, BBMP workers encouraged the effort by drawing colourful rangolis around the pots, though the practice was later discontinued. Still, the initiative succeeded in keeping the area clean. Prasad spent around ₹8,500 of his own money on the pots, plants, and soil, treating it as one last attempt after years of frustration.

Neighbours, once skeptical, were surprised by the sudden transformation. For Prasad, the message goes beyond his street corner. "If GBA implements such simple steps across Bengaluru, many garbage black spots could disappear," he said. His small experiment proves that individual civic responsibility, coupled with creativity, can achieve what official interventions often struggle to deliver. — BMB

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DID YOU KNOW?

An undersea submersible has spotted crabs, worms and fish thriving on the surfaces of World War II explosives thought to be toxic to marine life.
At a former weapons dump site in the Baltic Sea, scientists found more creatures living on top of warheads than in the surrounding seabed.
"We were prepared to see significantly lower numbers of all kinds of animals," said study author Andrey Vedenin with the Senckenberg Research Institute in Germany. "But it turned out the opposite." Past conflicts have left their mark on the world's oceans, Vedenin said. German waters alone contain about 1.6 million tons (1.5 million metric tonnes) of dumped weapons, mostly from the two world wars in the 20th century. Dumped relics can contain nuclear and chemical remnants as well as explosives like TNT. It's the latest example of wildlife flourishing in polluted sites. Previous research has shown shipwrecks and former weapons complexes teeming with biodiversity.
— AP

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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Write to us at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

Holes in Trump's clean energy bashing at UN speech

Claim: At the UN, President Donald Trump declared that renewable energy sources such as wind and solar "don't work," are "too expensive," and represent a "joke." He argued that clean energy harms the economy, drives higher energy costs, and cannot sustain infrastructure.
The Fact: Independent analysis contradicts Trump's claims. In 2024, 80% of global electricity generation growth came from renewables and nuclear, with renewables cheaper than fossil fuels. Solar and wind surpassed coal in the US, providing 16% of power and driving millions of jobs.

President Donald Trump used his September 23 speech at the United Nations General Assembly to launch a sweeping attack on renewable energy, dismissing solar and wind as ineffective, expensive, and incapable of powering modern economies. His remarks directly challenged the overwhelming scientific consensus on climate change and came at a time when clean energy is rapidly transforming both the global energy mix and the US job market.

Trump claimed that renewable technologies "don't work" and are "a joke," warning they drive up consumer costs and undermine economic stability. He argued that fossil fuels remain the backbone of reliable power generation. But his assertions were quickly contradicted by independent data and fact-checks.

According to the International Energy Agency and ABC News, renewable and nuclear power supplied 40 percent of the world's electricity in 2024, with renewables alone responsible for 80 percent of global generation growth. In the US, solar and wind now provide 16 percent of electricity, surpassing coal. Projections show renewable energy will meet 95 percent of global demand growth through 2027, highlighting its growing dominance in power markets. Cost competitiveness has also flipped against Trump's claims. The International Renewable Energy Agency reported last year that more than 90 percent of new renewable projects were cheaper than fossil fuel alternatives. Solar photovoltaic systems averaged 41 percent lower in cost than the cheapest fossil option, while onshore wind was 53 percent cheaper. These figures show that clean energy is not only viable but increasingly the more economical choice.

The workforce story is equally striking. Clean energy has become one of America's fastest-growing employment sectors, with more than 3.5 million people employed—more than nursing, cashiering, food service, or elementary school teaching. Jobs range from wind turbine technicians to solar installers, both among the fastest-growing occupations nationwide. In 2024 alone, nearly 100,000 jobs were added in solar, wind, batteries, energy efficiency, and electric vehicles.

Still, growth is slowing. The US added 50,000 fewer clean energy jobs compared with 2023. Analysts point to economic headwinds and policy uncertainty. Critics argue that Trump's administration has fuelled this uncertainty by cancelling projects, reducing tax credits, and imposing new regulatory hurdles. In the first half of 2025, E2 reported that businesses cancelled $22 billion worth of projects that would have created more than 16,500 jobs—many in Republican-leaning states.

Trump's UN remarks underscore a widening gap between political rhetoric and energy realities. While he portrays renewables as costly and ineffective, evidence shows they are cheaper, cleaner, and central to future economic growth. — ET Online

Dasara Sparkle: Shoppers Stop Hosts Family Fiesta at Elita Promenade

Residential enclave turns hub of games, music & revelry

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Residents of Elita Promenade, JP Nagar, had a festival bash on Thursday as Shoppers Stop brought the community together for an evening of fun, laughter, and celebration

The festive season began on a high note at Elita Promenade, JP Nagar, as Shoppers Stop brought the community together for an evening of fun, laughter, and celebration on Thursday, September 25. The 'Dasara Family Fiesta', which began at 5 pm, turned the otherwise calm residential enclave into a hub of excitement with music, games, and activities for all age groups.

The highlight of the evening was its inclusivity, as it was an open forum where residents could showcase their talents, bond as families, and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere without spending a rupee. With free entry and a promise of "something for everyone," the event truly lived up to its festive season.

"Navratri's vibrant celebrations may vary across the country, but its essence remains the same -- a beautiful reflection of harmony with nature. Just as the seasons change and plants bloom, this festival reminds us that amidst life's evolution, the spirit of togetherness stays constant. It's a time to let go of ego, negativity, and unwanted energies, and instead, seek blessings from the nine divine forms of Goddess Durga. As we come together at Elita Promenade, with nearly 5,000 residents across 1,573 apartments, it's not an easy feat, but it's always worth it. Our intention is to create an inclusive atmosphere where every individual can celebrate and revel in the joy of being part of one big, extended family beyond caste, colour, or religion," said Megha Misra, Head, Elita Promenade Cultural & Behaviour Initiatives.

SHOPPERS STOP
Dasara
Family Fiesta
in association with
VK
ವಿಜಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
VIJAY KARNATAKA
NO.1 READ DAILY IN KARNATAKA*
BangaloreMirror

A Ramp Walk to Remember

The fashion ramp walk was one of the most anticipated events of the evening. Families walked the runway hand-in-hand, flaunting their unique styles. Children twirled in colourful frocks while other residents showed off their ethnic elegance, blending grace with a playful spirit. Applause and cheers filled the air as residents transformed into showstoppers, proving that fashion is not just about clothes but also about confidence and togetherness.

Sharing her thoughts on fashion, resident and also winner of Ramp walk Megha Misra said, "For me, fashion is all about self-expression. When comfort comes first, it not only reflects personal style but also elevates one's dignity and confidence."

Fun Corners and Creative Nooks

The fiesta included a lot of fun as nail art and mehndi stalls drew excited crowds, while families flocked to the selfie booth for quirky clicks. Children showcased creativity in a vibrant drawing contest, delighting parents. Saree draping and makeover workshops added a playful twist, with participants experimenting in style, turning the session into a lively, laughter-filled highlight of the evening.

A 13-year-old participant in the drawing competition shared, "It was so much fun! If such activities are held more often, kids like us can enjoy ourselves without having to ask our parents for money."

Meanwhile, women who adorned their hands with mehndi also joined in by singing, expressing their joy. "This is the first time such an event has been organised here. It feels so nice to sit with my apartment friends and enjoy something like this. Mehndi is usually done only at weddings or other family gatherings, so this felt really special," one of them shared.

Games, Golgappas, and Gifts

No celebration in Bengaluru is complete without food, and the free golgappa counter was proof of that. From children to grandparents, everyone flocked to taste the tangy and spicy flavours, making it one of the busiest spots at the event.

Adding to the charm were the emcee-led games, which ensured there was never a dull moment. For Shoppers Stop, it was not just an event but a gesture of goodwill, strengthening bonds with the community while giving residents an evening to remember.

Another resident, thanked the organisers, saying, "It's wonderful to have everyone together, an opportunity to share laughter and bond with each other, especially during challenging times in life."

For the people of Elita Promenade, it was proof that festivals are best celebrated not in isolation but as a family, a community, and a city that thrives on shared joy. "Everyone enjoyed it a lot as it had something for everyone. The props, the goodies, the family walk, and the selfie game are so well thought of!" a resident said.

Another resident agreed. "The event was wonderful, full of surprises, photos, ramp walk, mehndi, nail art, shopping, golgappe and what not. From 2 yr olds to 80+ year olds, there was something for everyone. Ladies enjoyed singing, photo sessions, and lots of gifts. Full of festive vibes, it was a top notch event. I loved it. Looking forward to more such events."

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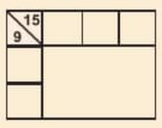
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

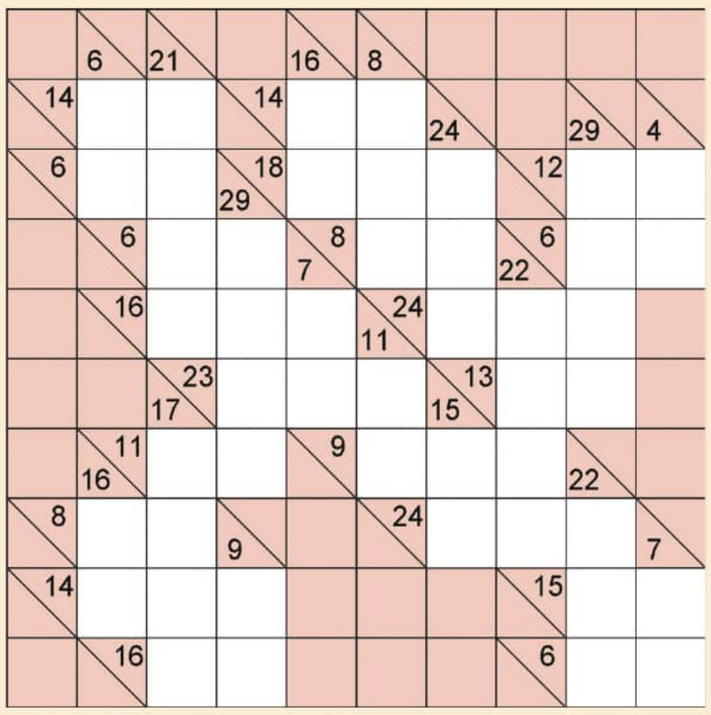
$9x - (4x - (4 + x)) = 4x + 8$

Kakuro

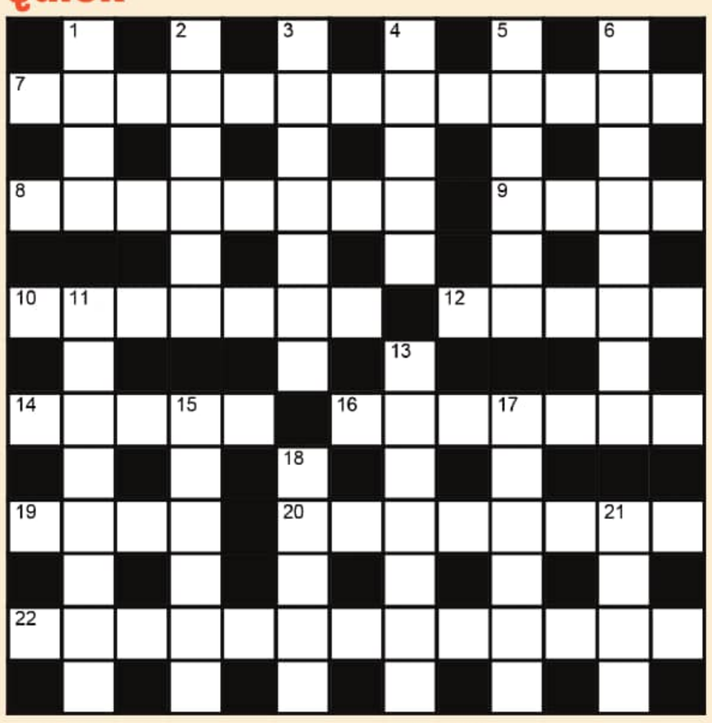
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Punctually or accurately? (5,2,3,3)
8 A young rooster (8)
9 Top-notch (1-3)
10 F1 team (7)
12 __ ___ of : via ? (2,3)
14 Basil, oregano, etc (5)
16 Talking rhythmically to the beat of music (7)
19 Mexican pancake (4)
20 1983 World Cup winning captain (5,3)
22 Late shehnai maestro from Varanasi (9,4)

DOWN

1 Prefix for one thousand (4)
2 Term of play in polo (6)
3 Pressured or compelled (7)
4 Coral isle (5)
5 Bequest (6)
6 _____ lion : puma? (8)
11 Garden climber (8)
13 Tennis great Pete ___ (7)
15 Flowers (6)
17 P in BBMP (6)
18 Cranium (5)
21 And others, in Latin (2,2)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS D

ILB OPMVRB JBPMNY SIM'N ODSR OBIQ NAR WPXRY ER NILZA.

Linemaro

It's not my fault I fell in love. You are the one that tripped me

Mindchow

It is impossible to begin to learn that which one thinks one already knows

Joke of the day

She was what we used to call a suicide blonde – dyed by her own hand

Loop

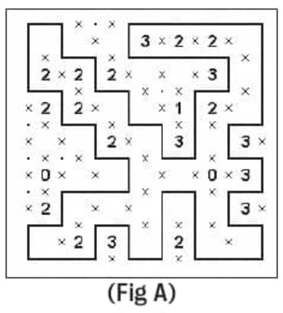
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

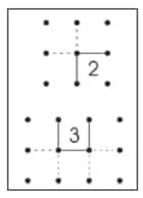
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

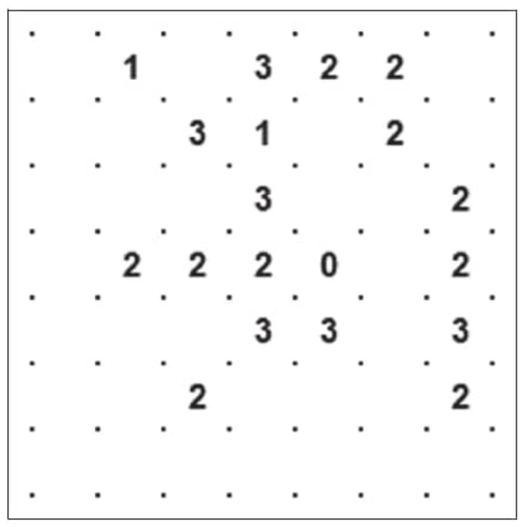
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



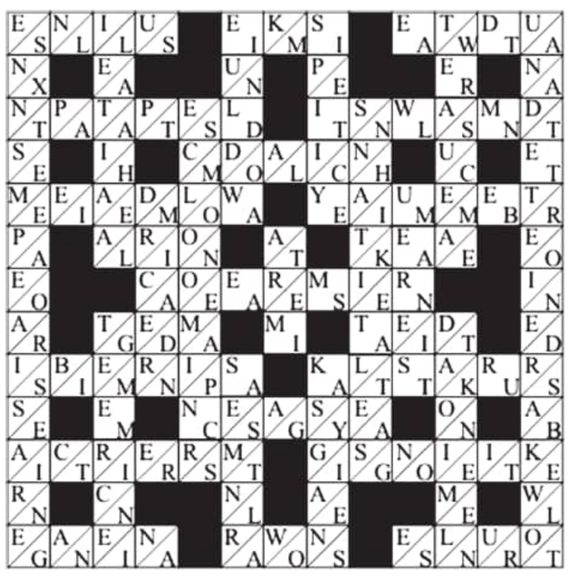
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



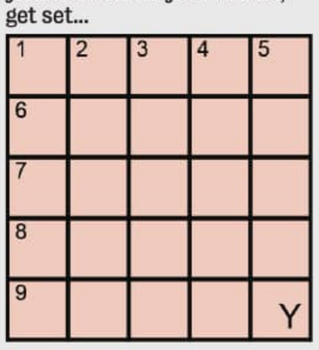
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

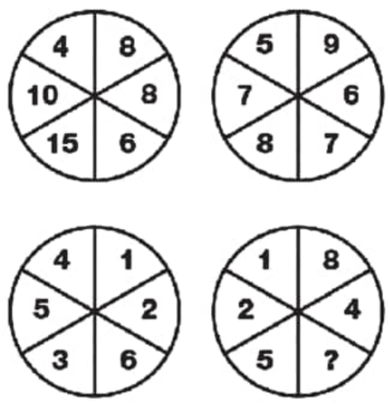
1 Strap; 6 Lanai;
7 Unlit; 8 Lilts;
9 Oh oye

DOWN

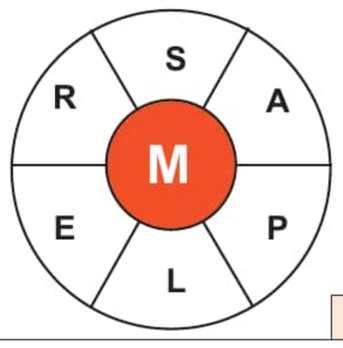
1 Shuls; 2 To Pin;
3 At Rio; 4 Alien;
5 Ty all

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

19 Average; 21 Good; 23 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	6	1		3		5	9	
			7		2			
2		5				8		3
5		6				9		4
			3		1			
9		3				2		7
3		2				4		9
			9		6			
	9	8		2		7	5	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 2

1 5 5 7

Medium = 24

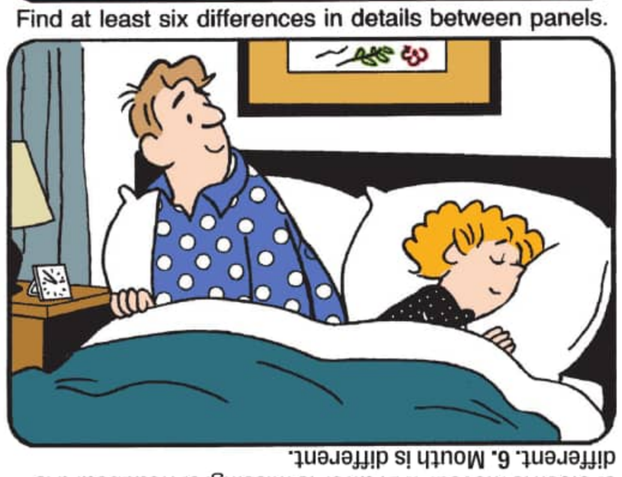
2 4 5 8

Hard = 54

6 8 9 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



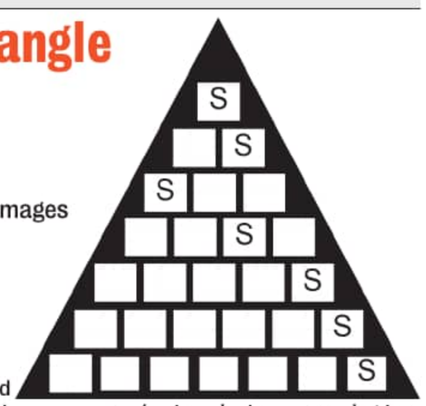
Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Hair is different. 3. Clock is moved. 4. Drawer is missing. 5. Headboard is different. 6. Mouth is different.

Riddler

A song that makes it to first place. How that guy got to first base. A chance to reach one score and one. A sock; a pound; shot by a gun. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Sulphur symbol
2 Less more
3 Knight's title
4 Ascend
5 Conflagrations
6 Ransacks or rummages
7 Strains

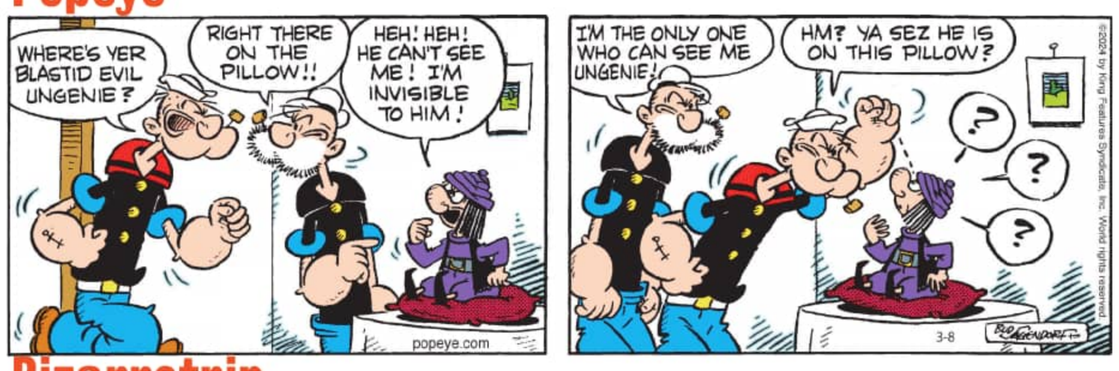


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


WHERE'S YER BLASTID EVIL UNGENIE?
RIGHT THERE ON THE PILLOW!!
HEH! HEH! HE CAN'T SEE ME! I'M INVISIBLE TO HIM!
popeye.com
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE ME UNGENIE!
HM? YA SEZ HE IS ON THIS PILLOW?
3-8

Bizarrotrip

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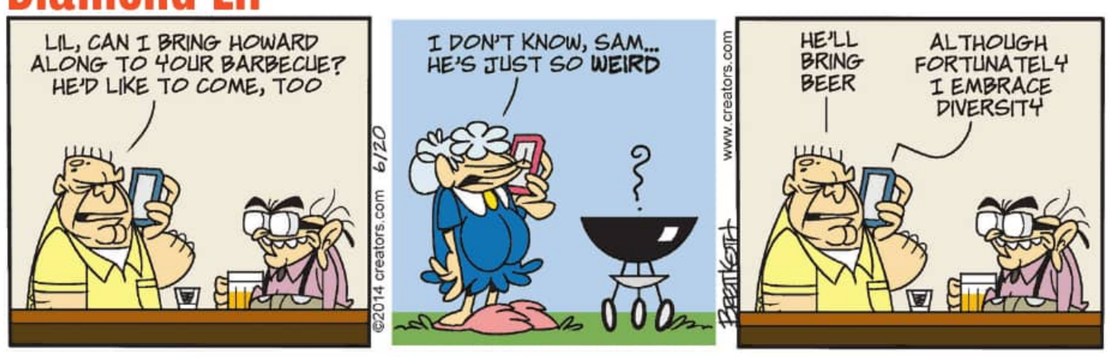
Wayno & Piraro 6.20.25
I'll be right back with your ex and your mother.
Dist. by King Features ©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS
EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE CLAIM

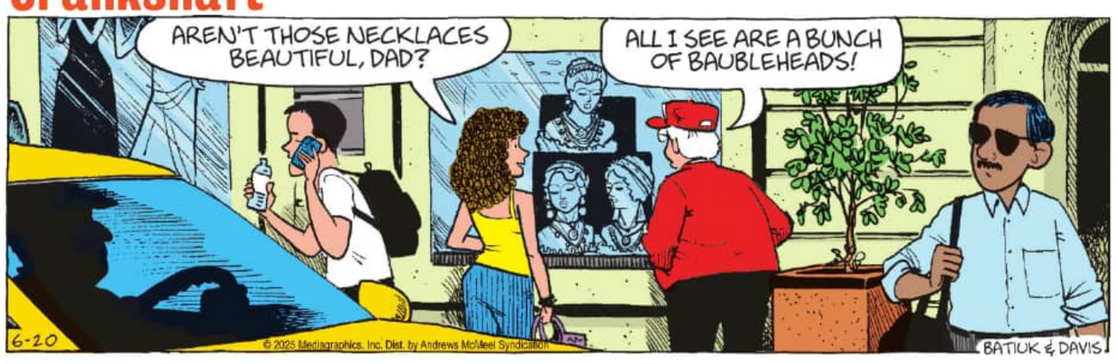
Diamond Lil


LIL, CAN I BRING HOWARD ALONG TO YOUR BARBECUE? HE'D LIKE TO COME, TOO
©2014 creators.com 6/20
I DON'T KNOW, SAM... HE'S JUST SO WEIRD
www.creators.com
HE'LL BRING BEER
ALTHOUGH FORTUNATELY I EMBRACE DIVERSITY

Hart of the city

MARTIN NEVER WENT BACK TO HIS FRIEND'S HOUSE. HE NEVER WENT BACK TO HIS OWN HOUSE. HIS BODY WAS NEVER FOUND.
ON MISTY NIGHTS, YOU CAN HEAR SONIA WHISPERING, "STAY WITH ME."
IF YOU CAN WALK THE BRIDGE AT NIGHT, YOU'RE, LIKE, REALLY BRAVE OR SOMETHING. I DUNNO, I NEVER DID THE WALK. I HATE BRIDGES. BUT I LOVE SCARY STORIES, SO I HOPE YOU GET SOME NIGHTMARES TONIGHT.
KAT, YOUR SISTER IS INCREDIBLY COOL.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


AREN'T THOSE NECKLACES BEAUTIFUL, DAD?
ALL I SEE ARE A BUNCH OF BAUBLEHEADS!
6-20
© 2025 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your year shines with opportunities for expansion. Finances strengthen through intentional planning. Career success comes as you embrace bold ideas and lead with confidence. Love blossoms with heartfelt communication. Luck accompanies creative ventures. Tip: Cultivate optimism, seeing the best in situations will help you attract abundance and inspire others to support your journey forward.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Momentum builds, take bold steps toward your dreams. Your courage and determination create opportunities, while inspiring those around you to follow their own paths with similar confidence and enthusiasm.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Rest restores your strength. Prioritize relaxation and enjoy grounding activities that bring peace, helping you approach future responsibilities with renewed emotional balance and clarity.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Networking opens doors, share your ideas with those who can help bring them to life. These conversations lead to exciting collaborations that support your growth in both personal and professional spaces.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Embrace emotional openness, speaking your truth deepens your connections. These honest conversations create harmony and help you strengthen trust in relationships that matter most.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your talents shine brightly, embrace recognition with humility. Use this momentum to explore new opportunities that challenge you and bring your creative vision closer to reality.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Focus on efficiency, prioritize tasks that matter most, simplifying your approach to reduce stress and boost productivity. This balance helps you achieve goals without sacrificing personal well-being.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Nurture your relationships with appreciation. Heartfelt words or small acts of kindness deepen bonds, creating harmony and emotional fulfillment within your personal and professional circles.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Transformation drives your day, step confidently into new opportunities that challenge and inspire you. These changes bring personal growth and align you with your higher purpose.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Adventure sparks inspiration, explore new environments or learn something unexpected. These experiences expand your perspective, reigniting your enthusiasm for growth and creative pursuits.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Your steady efforts pay off, stay focused and patient. Every disciplined action you take today strengthens your long-term vision and brings you closer to your aspirations.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Collaboration leads to breakthroughs, share ideas with those who complement your strengths. These partnerships foster innovation and help transform big dreams into achievable outcomes.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Quiet reflection brings emotional healing. Journaling or meditative practices help you release stress and find clarity, preparing you for new opportunities with a peaceful, open heart.

www.sundeepkochar.com

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Ananya, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
9x−(3x−4) = 4x+8
6x+4 = 4x+8
2x = 4
x=2

RIDDLER A hit

BULL'S EYE
ample, ampler, lame, lamer, lamp, male, maple, mare, meal, palm, perm, pram, psalm, ramp, realm, ream, same, sample, SAMPLER, seam, slam, smear, sperm

FAST FIVE

S	P	R	A	T
L	I	A	N	A
U	N	T	I	L
S	T	I	L	L
H	O	O	E	Y

QUOTE UNCODE
Our fingerprints don't fade from the lives we touch.

STRIKE OUT

E	L	L	S		E	M	S		E	T	T	U		
T	A	T	T	E	D		I	S	L	A	N	D		
X		E		N		P			R			N		
E	H		C	O	A	C	H			U		E		
M	E	A	D	O	W		Y	A	M	M	E	R		
P		L	I	N		A		K	E	A		O		
O			C	O	A	R	S	E	R			N		
R		G	E	M		M		A	I	D		E		
I	B	E	R	I	A		A	L	T	A	R	S		
S		M		C	E	A	S	E		N		B		
I	C	I	E	S	T		I	G	N	I	T	E		
N		N		A								L		
G	A	I	N		A	W	N		S	L	U	T		

QUICK

		S		S		L		S		E		L		
B	I	S	M	I	L	L	A	H	K	H	A	N	A	N
		T		O		U		R		I		T		
T	A	C	O		K	A	P	I	L	D	E	V		
		M		L		S		M		A				
H	E	R	B	S		R	A	P	P	I	N	G		
		L				D		S		I				
M	C	L	A	R	E	N		B	Y	W	A	Y		
		K		C		L		C		T				
C	O	C	K	E	R	E	L		A	O	N	E		
		L		U		E		O		G		U		
R	I	G	H	T	O	N	T	H	E	D	O	T		
K		C		A		L		M						

MENSA PUZZLE
1. Numbers in the segments of the upper left hand circle equal the product of the numbers in the corresponding segments of the lower 2 circles, and the numbers in the segments of the upper right hand circle equal the sum of the numbers in corresponding segments of the bottom two circles.

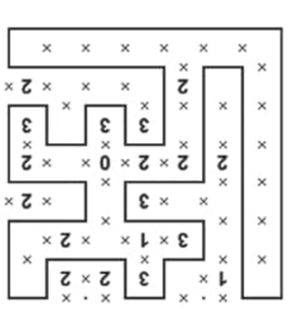
SUDOKU

6	9	8	4	2	3	7	5	1
1	5	4	9	7	6	3	2	8
3	7	2	5	1	8	4	6	9
9	8	3	6	4	5	2	1	7
4	2	7	3	9	1	6	8	5
5	1	6	2	8	7	9	3	4
2	4	5	1	6	9	8	7	3
8	3	9	7	5	2	1	4	6
7	6	1	8	3	4	5	9	2

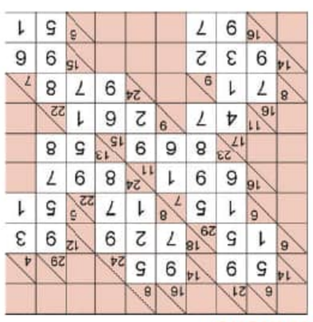
ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, Is, Sir, Rise, Fires, Rifles, Filters.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 5 − 7 − 1 = 2
Medium
2 x 4 − 5 x 8 = 24
Hard
6 x 8 / 8 x 9 = 54

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 18, Issue No 039 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

SAMSUNG

Galaxy S25 Ultra

Got a question? Go live. Get answers.

12:00
100
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Gemini, what's the best way to style this for a rock-meets-**Indian party?**
For a rock themed Indian party, you could pair it with a black leather jacket and some **chunky silver jewelry.**

Google Gemini

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